

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MONROV 02666 201331Z
ACTION AF-10

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R 201222Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4399
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONROVIA 2666

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUFLE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, AF
SUBJECT: OUR AFRICA POLICY

REF: STATE 015063

1. I AM PROMPTED BY REFTEL AND BY THE REPORTS VIA VOA THAT
PRESIDENT CARTER HAS DIRECTED VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE TO TAKE A
PERSONAL HAND IN COORDINATING U.S. POLICY TOWARD AFRICA TO
OFFER FOR THE DEPARTMENT'S CONSIDERATION THE FOLLOWING:

A. IN THESE FIRST DAYS OF HIS ADMINISTRATION THE PRESIDENT HAS
SEEN A NUMBER OF HEADS OF STATE FROM EUROPE, THE MIDDLE EAST
AND THE AMERICAS, WITH MORE TO COME. AS ALL OF US WHO HAVE
WORKED ON AFRICAN AFFAIRS FOR SOME TIME KNOW, PRESIDENTIAL MEETINGS
WITH AFRICAN LEADERS OFTEN HAVE BEEN ARRANGED ONLY AFTER
CONSIDERABLE RESISTANCE IN WASHINGTON.

ISN'T IT POSSIBLE THAT THE TIME HAS NOW COME IN THE EVOLUTION OF
U.S. POLICY TOWARD AFRICA, FOR US TO TAKE A MORE BOLD APPROACH
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TO SUCH MEETINGS? OBVIOUSLY IN EVERY INSTANCE THE PROS AND CONS
WOULD HAVE TO BE CAREFULLY THOUGHT OUT (AND OTHERS ARE BETTER
EQUIPPED THAN I TO MAKE JUDGMENTS ON INDIVIDUAL CHOICES) BUT
SHOULDN'T WE CONSIDER TAKING THE INITIATIVE WITH INVITATIONS TO
MEET WITH THE PRESIDENT TO SUCH LEADERS AS KUANDA AND
NYERERE (ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES); TOLBERT AND HOUPHOUET-
BOIGNY (AS CLOSE FRIENDS WHO SHARE WITH US A COMMITMENT TO THE

FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM AND MODERATION IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS);
AND SENGHOR (AS SOMEONE WITH WHOM THE PRESIDENT COULD DISCUSS
AMONG OTHER THINGS SAHEL REHABILITATION, A PRIMARY OBJECTIVE OF
PRESENT U.S. ECONOMIC POLICY IN AFRICA). I CAN THINK OF FEW OTHER
STEPS THAT WOULD SIGNAL TO AFRICA THAT THE U.S. IS DETERMINED
TO PURSUE AN ACTIVE AND POSITIVE POLICY TOWARD AFRICA.

B. ALTHOUGH I HAVE SEEN NO OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT, AND AM THUS
RELYING ON VOA COVERAGE, WOULD NOT THE VICE PRESIDENT
MONDALE'S MANDATE VIS-A -VIS AFRICA MAKE A LISTENING AND
LEARNING TRIP PARTICULARLY USEFUL AT THIS TIME? THE UPCOMING
COM MEETING IN ABIDJAN COULD BE THE FOCUS.
CARTER

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